PD-ABH-065
85036

REDSO/WCA

PROJECT ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

FOR

AFRICA EMERGENCY LOCUST/GRASSHOPPER ASSISTANCE PROJECT

(698-0517)

&

AFRICA EMERGENCY LOCUST ASSISTANCE PROJECT

(625-0517)

Date of Report: September 1993 PACD: June 30, 1990

Prepared by: Karyn Vaughn-Fritz
Moctar N'Dy

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROJECT ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Africa Emergency Locust/Grasshopper Assistance Project (698-0517)
&
Africa Emergency Locust Assistance Project (625-0517)

PACD: June 30, 1990

I. INTRODUCTION

The Africa Emergency Locust/Grasshopper Assistance Project (AELGA) served as a multi-donor assistance effort to address the needs for recovery and rehabilitation generated by the emergency locust and grasshopper infestation that had threatened many African countries. The project, which began March 2, 1988, pooled donor funds and resources. Its objectives were to assist the various countries in establishing improved management and control mechanisms that would help avoid future calamities to subdue the infestation, and to reduce plague-induced famine and its associated economic and social suffering.

By March 1988, the locust and grasshopper infestations had reached a critical level in Mauritania. The infestations were reported as the largest seen since 1957. In one instance, Nouakchott had been attacked for six hours by a locust swarm measuring eight km wide and 90 km long.

Funds were allotted to provide technical assistance, short-term training, commodities, and institutional support for the conduct of survey and control activities. These efforts overlapped with those of the Mauritania Insect Infestation Assistance project (682-0239) and the Africa Emergency Locust project (625-0517). The Africa Emergency Locust project actually combined with AELGA and was only implemented for one year, June 30, 1987 to June 30, 1988.

The project's aerial and ground control campaign was based on experience gained during a multilaterally-supported emergency pest control program carried out in 1986. Additionally, information was gleaned from previous efforts by the Inter-State Committee to Combat Drought in the Sahel (CILSS), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and USAID. The Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), a unit of AID/Washington, provided humanitarian aid assistance to the project.

Through project activities, the infestation was contained at a level considered locally-manageable. The Crop Protection Service (CPS), a division of the GIRM's Ministry of Rural Development, reported in March 1989 that sorghum, corn, and vegetable crops were out of danger and were maturing favorably. The success of the program was attributed to combined control activities, including assistance from the Mauritanian military in both treatment and survey activities, and the involvement of Peace Corps volunteers in survey operations. During the 1988 operations, over 900,000 hectares were treated using over 500 tons of powder pesticide and nearly 500,000 liters of liquid pesticide.

Despite the success of the program, AELGA did experience a setback associated with disturbances in Mauritania resulting from anti-Senegalese, ethnic-oriented civil strife and rioting. The firing and forced expulsions of employees of Senegalese decent disrupted the operational capacity of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania's (GIRM) Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, and the National Crop Protection Service. This situation was eventually rectified, but the personnel vacancies did interrupt project implementation.

The AELGA Grant Agreement was amended three times: on June 19, 1988; September 29, 1988; and June 17, 1989. The final amendment increased USAID's funding to a total of $618,000. The project's PACD was extended once to June 30, 1990.

Following the June 1993 close-out of operations in Mauritania, project files were delivered to the REDSO/Abidjan office. This project assistance completion report was compiled from these documents, which consisted of the Project Paper, Amendments, project implementation orders (PIOs), and correspondence. The project plan for the Mauritania component and project evaluations were not available for this review.

II. CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PARTIES

GIRM

The GIRM provided assistance in the form of personnel through the GIRM's Crop Protection Service, a used pick-up truck, equipment, and supplies.

USAID

In Mauritania, USAID provided grants in the amounts of $618,000 for project 698-0517 and $105,000 for project 625-0517. These funds covered costs related to technical assistance, commodities, institutional support and operational training in support of the emergency program.

Funds were also used to purchase pesticide transportation, diesel fuel coupons, fuel and lubricants, vehicle spare parts, rental of aircraft time, air freight shipment, telephone time, vehicle repair, vehicle rental, accountant services, FAX machines and supplies, driving services, and greenness maps.

Other Donors

Other donors to the project included the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, Japan, Germany, USSR, France, and the EEC. These donors supplied additional pesticides, vehicles, funds, radios, maps, fuel, aircraft time, and technical assistance. Project documentation did not specify dollar amounts of these contributions.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

The Office of the AID Representative/Nouakchott (OAR/Nouakchott) implemented the action plan developed for Mauritania in close collaboration with the GIRM's Ministry of Rural Development, Directorate of Agriculture. All disbursement of funds, except for those agreed upon by the Directorate of Agriculture and USAID in writing, were controlled by REDSO/WAAC in Abidjan.

An effort was made to maintain a close liaison with the FAO, which had responsibility for maintaining surveillance of the locust and grasshopper threat on a world-wide basis.

Technical Assistance

AELGA utilized short-term contracts to procure technical assistance for the project. Funding was earmarked for the following positions:

An Entomologist/Program Coordinator was contracted to assist the OAR/Nouakchott in developing, monitoring, and implementing the 1989/1990 infestation control program in collaboration with the GIRM's Crop Protection Service. The program coordinator was based at OAR/Nouakchott and reported to the Mission Agricultural Development Officer. All policy-level decisions concerning funding, assistance levels, and program activities had to be approved by the ADO or Mission Director. Additionally, the Coordinator served as a technical advisor and consultant to OAR/Nouakchott and the GIRM on matters relating to the control of the program. The Coordinator maintained regular communications with the FAO Program Coordinator and the CPS.

A Locust Control Officer assisted the CPS in the development and implementation of survey and control strategies. The Control Officer identified training needs and organized practical courses and workshops that responded to those needs. Some of the areas identified that required future training included survey methods, decision-making for pesticide application, crop loss assessment, equipment maintenance and calibration, pesticide management, safe use of pesticides, and monitoring pesticide application exposure.

A two-month personal services contract hired someone to work on the project over a two-month period, and Peace Corps volunteers also contributed to the project.

An Accountant and a Secretary/Receptionist were procured to assist in the management of the locust spray operations, which were conducted in cooperation with the CPS. The contractors reported to the head logistician and Program Coordinator at OAR/Nouakchott.

Four contractors were procured to assist the CPS in the management of locust control spray aircraft teams.

Commodities

Waivers were granted for the procurement of survey and control equipment, motor vehicles and spare parts, and pesticides.

Six months of satellite greenness maps were procured. FAX machines and supplies were also purchased for site transmission of the maps.

Three, four-wheel drive vehicles for use by the OFDA technical assistance teams were bought. Following project activities, the vehicles were retained by the GIRM.

USAID Financial Inputs

A summary of financial reports as of June 30, 1993 indicated that of the total project funds, $480,717 was obligated and disbursed. Unused project funds were de-earmarked and deobligated.

IV. ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Project documentation noted the direct correlation between drought and pest cycles in Africa. Although the drought had detrimental affects on Mauritania's economy, it kept the grasshopper and locust infestations in check. With the return of rainfalls, the threat from pest-induced famine reappeared. Through the efforts of AELGA and the onset of unfavorable breeding conditions, the situation was brought under control.

The program's successful survey efforts helped to detect high-risk infestation areas. Using data from the survey activities, technicians were able to mobilize vehicles based in Adrar, Assaba, Brakna, Gorgol, Guidimakha, Hodh Charghi, Hodh Gharbi, Inchiri, Nouakchott, Tagrant, Tiris, Trarza, and Zemmour.

The primary planned output of these projects, to assist the Mauritanian CPS with rapid suppression of crop destroying grasshoppers and locusts, and thereby minimize crop loss, was accomplished. In addition, assistance was provided for long-term planning to allow the CPS to prepare for future Sahelian grasshopper and locust outbreaks.

V. LESSONS LEARNED

In the absence of project reviews or evaluations, lessons learned during the implementation of the Africa Emergency Locust/Grasshopper Assistance Project cannot be ascertained.